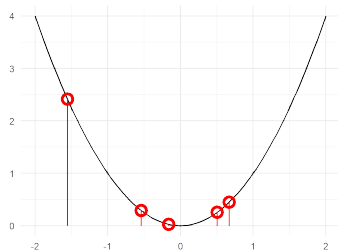


# Introduction to Machine Learning

## Advanced Risk Minimization

### Regression Losses: L2 and L1 loss



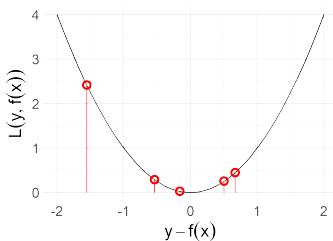
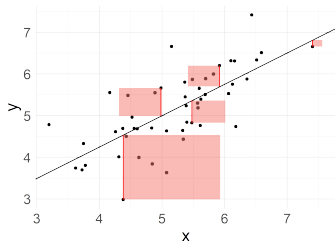
#### Learning goals

- L2 loss and risk minimizers
- L1 loss and risk minimizers

# L2-LOSS

$$L(y, f(\mathbf{x})) = (y - f(\mathbf{x}))^2 \quad \text{or} \quad L(y, f(\mathbf{x})) = 0.5 (y - f(\mathbf{x}))^2$$

- Tries to reduce large residuals  
If residual is twice as large, loss is 4 times as large  
Hence, sensitive to outliers in  $y$
- Analytic properties: convex, differentiable





## L2: OPTIMAL CONSTANT MODEL

- From the previous we immediately get for  $Q = P_y$

$$f_c^* = \arg \min_{c \in \mathbb{R}} \mathbb{E}_y[(y - c)^2] = \mathbb{E}[y]$$

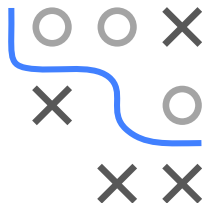
- For the best empirical constant we could minimize

$$\hat{f}_c = \arg \min_{c \in \mathbb{R}} \sum_{i=1}^n L(y^{(i)}, c)$$

And later we will proceed like that

- But we can get the result for free from our previous consideration
- For data  $y^{(1)}, \dots, y^{(n)}$ , empirical distribution is  $P_n = \frac{1}{n} \sum_{i=1}^n \delta_{y^{(i)}}$
- Hence: Optimal constant is sample mean

$$\hat{f}_c = \arg \min_{c \in \mathbb{R}} \sum_{i=1}^n L(y^{(i)}, c) = \mathbb{E}_{z \sim P_n}(z - c)^2 = \mathbb{E}[z] = \frac{1}{n} \sum_{i=1}^n y^{(i)} = \bar{y}$$



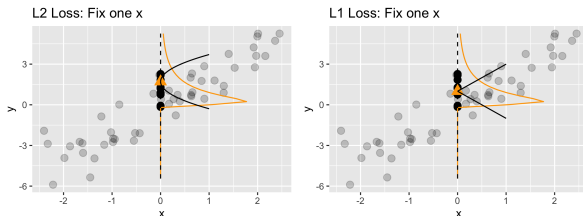
# L2-LOSS: RISK MINIMIZER

- Let's minimize true risk for unrestricted hypothesis space and  $L_2$
- We know: At any point  $\mathbf{x} = \tilde{\mathbf{x}}$ , our loss-optimal prediction is

$$f^*(\tilde{\mathbf{x}}) = \arg \min_{c \in \mathbb{R}} \mathbb{E}_{y|x} [L(y, c) \mid \mathbf{x} = \tilde{\mathbf{x}}]$$

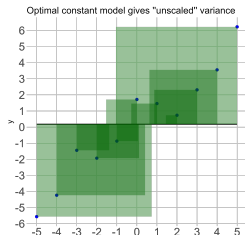
- Again from the previous, we know the minimizer for  $L_2$  is the conditional expectation

$$f^*(\tilde{\mathbf{x}}) = \mathbb{E}_{y|x} [y \mid \mathbf{x} = \tilde{\mathbf{x}}] .$$



# L2 LOSS MEANS MINIMIZING VARIANCE

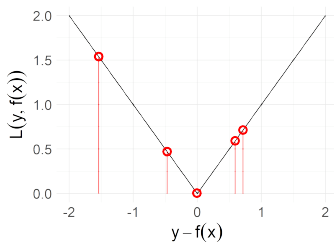
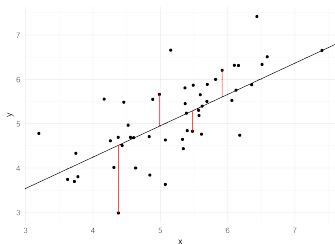
- Let's reconsider the previous
- Optimized for const whose squared dist to points is minimal (on avg)
- Result:  $\hat{\theta} = \bar{y}$
- What is the associated risk?
$$\mathcal{R}_{\text{emp}}(\hat{\theta}) = \sum_{i=1}^n (y^{(i)} - \bar{y})^2$$
- Average this by  $\frac{1}{n}$  or  $\frac{1}{n-1}$  to obtain variance
- Same holds for the pointwise construction / conditional distribution considered before



# L1-LOSS

$$L(y, f(\mathbf{x})) = |y - f(\mathbf{x})|$$

- More robust than  $L_2$ , outliers in  $y$  are less problematic
- Analytical properties: convex, not differentiable for  $y = f(\mathbf{x})$  (optimization becomes harder)



# L1-LOSS: OPTIMAL PREDICTIONS

- Optimal constant model is median:  $f_c^* = \text{med}[y]$
- Empirical version:  $\hat{f}_c = \text{med}(y^{(1)}, \dots, y^{(n)})$
- Derivations slightly harder and in deep-dive
- Risk minimizer / optimal conditional prediction:

$$f^*(\tilde{\mathbf{x}}) = \arg \min_c \mathbb{E}_{y|x} [|y - c|] = \text{med}_{y|x} [y \mid \mathbf{x} = \tilde{\mathbf{x}}]$$

